

*In the Claims:*

Replace the indicated claims with:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~ A printing system comprising a multi-color lithographic printing press and an off-press plate-making apparatus comprising:

- means for applying on a substrate a uniform image-recording layer which is capable of forming a lithographic image upon exposure to heat or light and optional processing; and
- means for removing the lithographic image from the substrate~~[[.]]~~;

wherein the off-press plate-making apparatus is mechanically coupled to the multi-color printing press by plate-loading means for transferring a plurality of printing plate precursors or a plurality of printing masters from the plate-making apparatus to the multi-color printing press and/or by plate-unloading means for transferring a plurality of printing masters from the multi-color printing press to the plate-making apparatus and wherein the plate-loading means and/or the plate-unloading means comprise a stacking apparatus.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An off-press plate-making apparatus~~ A printing system according to claim 1 which further comprises:

- means for exposing the image-recording layer to heat or light; and, optionally,
- means for processing the exposed image-recording layer.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An off-press plate-making apparatus~~ A printing system according to claim 1 wherein the means for applying a ~~continuous~~ uniform image-recording layer on ~~[[a]]~~ the substrate comprise a spray nozzle or an ink-jet nozzle for applying a coating solution on the substrate.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An off-press plate-making apparatus~~ A printing system according to claim 1 wherein the means for removing the lithographic image from the substrate comprise a spray nozzle or an ink-jet nozzle for applying a cleaning liquid on the substrate.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An off-press plate-making apparatus~~ A printing system according to claim 1 wherein the means for removing the lithographic image from the substrate further comprises a means for preparing an emulsion by mixing an organic liquid with an aqueous liquid.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An off-press plate-making apparatus~~ A printing system according to claim 1 wherein the means for removing the lithographic image from the substrate further comprises a means for separating an emulsion in an organic phase and an aqueous phase.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A printing system according to claim ~~[[9]]~~ 1 wherein the stacking apparatus is integrated in the off-press plate-making apparatus.